THE LATTER-DAY SAINTS'

MILLENNIAL STAR

ESTABLISHED IN 1840

"Great and marvelous are thy works, O Lord God Almighty! Thy throne is high in the heavens, and thy power, and goodness, and mercy are over all the inhabitants of the earth; and, because thou art merciful, thou wilt not suffer those who come unto thee that they shall perish." BOOK OF MORMON, 1 NEPHI 1: 14.

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IMPENDING DANGERS AND THE WAY OF ESCAPE*

ELDER MELVIN J. BALLARD

OF THE COUNCIL OF THE TWELVE

THERE IS no situation that has arisen since the organization of this Church, neither will there be in the future, for which the Lord has not made ample provision. No matter how complicated it may seem to be, or how difficult, there is ample provision made in the wisdom of the Lord to solve it.

THREATENING DANGERS FORESEEN

We read in the first section of the Doctrine and Covenants:

Wherefore, I the Lord, knowing the calamity which should come upon the inhabitants of the earth, called upon my servant Joseph Smith, Jun., and spake unto him from heaven, and gave him commandments;

And also gave commandments to others, that they should proclaim these things unto the world; and all this that it might be fulfilled, which was written by the prophets—

The Lord has seen fit to warn His sons and daughters. He has anticipated their danger and foreseen their needs in ample time to save them. He has submitted not only the warning that there is danger ahead, but the means of escape have been provided, and in ample time to save His children. So I say that the Lord knew the perils of this hour which were spoken of yesterday, the dangers that threaten the world, this country, and the present civilization.

*Address delivered at the fourth session of the Ninety-eighth Semi-annual Conference, in the Tabernacle, Salt Lake City, Utah, U.S.A., October 8th, 1927.

These things were known by the Lord when He laid the foundations of this work; and He prepared His work to be able to withstand all the storms that should beat upon it, prepared it that it should stand as a shining light before the nations of the earth. He endowed us not only with the responsibility of becoming the salt of the earth, but with every facility to attain unto that distinction.

In the one hundred and fifteenth section of the Doctrine and Covenants the Lord says to all His Church:

> Verily I say unto you all: Arise and shine forth, that thy light may be a standard for the nations;
> And that the gathering together upon the land of Zion, and upon her stakes, may be for a defense, and for a refuge from the storm, and from wrath when it shall be poured out without mixture upon the whole earth.

I say that the Lord has made ample provision that we may arise and shine. The obligation is upon us. There is coming a day when we shall see the fruits of the Gospel as it has been lived in the lives of the Latter-day Saints, and discover that it has not only brought peace and happiness to them while they lived, but made them a light to the nations, and their salvation. In keeping these simple gospel commandments, men and women are also fortified to stand when the storms do beat upon the children of men, and in them lies the solution of all the problems that at present distress the world.

SATAN'S AMBITION

I confess to you, my brethren and sisters, that I have felt in my own spirit that there is danger ahead, not only for the world but for the Church. I recognize that the powers of evil have been arrayed against this Church from the beginning. When the Prophet's life was taken, that was but one item in the program of the adversary. The driving of the Latter-day Saints from their homes to this western country was another. Their right to exist has been contested until, after long years of struggle, that right, apparently, is conceded. And yet I can plainly see that the adversary of this work is not yet satisfied. I believe that the thing he has at heart is to realize his first great ambition; namely, to have the privilege of ruling over the kingdoms of this world. He has never lost sight of it, and when he met the Redeemer of the world and tempted Him, while Jesus was among men in mortality, the great purpose of that temptation was manifest in the last effort, when the kingdoms of the world passed in panoramic vision before the mind of Jesus. The tempter said: Are they not wonderful? Would you not love them? They are mine. Bow down and worship me, and you may have them on easy terms. He knew that this was the purpose for which Christ came into the world to die—to earn the right to become the King of kings and

Lord of lords and rule over the earth. Satan's purpose was not to give the kingdoms of the world, but to overcome the elect and chosen Son of God. Jesus went to Calvary and paid the price and earned the right to rule over the kingdoms of the world. But the enemy was not satisfied; he encompassed Christ and brought about His death, and planned the death of the Apostles and the destruction of the Church.

THE WORK THAT SHALL NOT FAIL

No wonder when the boy Joseph Smith knelt in the grove that before the Father and the Son could appear unto him the powers of evil knew that this humble instrumentality was God's means of establishing once again the work that shall not fail. He is vain enough to believe, the enemy of our souls, that he is yet to win the contest, for he has an ambition to become the king of this world, and has sought to frustrate every proposition that our Father has made to establish His work here permanently.

How grateful I am for the assurance that we have in the vision which the Lord gave to Daniel of old that in the last days, when our Father should set up His kingdom, it should not be overthrown nor left to another people; and yet that kingdom shall be buffeted, and has been buffeted. Nephi saw it; he saw its trials, saw its dangers, dangers that are past and dangers that are yet ahead of it; and yet out of it all we cling with joy and gladness to the assurance that these are the last days, that this is the last time when God shall set His hand to accomplish His work, and that it shall not fail no matter how the powers of evil may conspire against it.

TEMPTATION AND TRIALS FOR ALL

Powers of evil are not through with their opposition, neither have they conceded to us the right of way, but are seeking to tempt the Latter-day Saints to turn away from the promises of the Lord, seeking to blind their eyes. The spirit of self-indulgence that is rampant in the world, that leads to such lawlessness as was described here yesterday, will naturally have its influence over the Latter-day Saints. There will not be a man or woman in this Church, a boy or a girl, who shall not be tempted or tried. The adversary will lay individual siege against every man's faith and against every woman's faith, to seek to darken their spirits and have them believe that they have perhaps been deluded in some of these great and wonderful things; that the Lord is not sustaining this work, or that the Lord delayeth His coming, or, that after all it is only a matter of opinion. The love for things of this world will take possession of the hearts of men even in this Church, and blind their eyes, for the desire for material things will darken their spirits. But the most damning thing that shall happen is the sin and transgression into which men and women will go, who,

yielding to that spirit of self-indulgence, will not be able to keep the commandments of God because of not observing the Word of Wisdom, and they will weaken themselves until they shall succumb to a greater and more terrible evil, the evil of immorality, which is the end of self-indulgence, which has brought about the destruction of men and nations.

STRENGTH TO RESIST

Yet the Lord has fortified the Latter-day Saints in these simple gospel principles, if only we will adhere to them, which enable us to stand when the storms do blow and when the dangers threaten. Men and women who keep the Word of Wisdom, observing to abstain from the things that the natural appetite of men may crave, shall develop a strength and power to resist greater temptations when they come. But whosoever has been unable to observe this law, that is suited to the capacity of the weakest of the weak, may not be able to survive the dangers that shall come.

A WARNING

Now, I do not want to paint a dark picture; I simply want to lift my voice in warning as a watchman upon the towers of Zion, that there is danger ahead; that the time of peace and prosperity of the people becomes their most perilous time, and has been so in all the ages of the past. And yet with perfect confidence I look forward throughout the days of individual testing to a time to come when vindication will arise for those who are true and faithful under all circumstances and adhere to these gospel principles. It is not an idle boast. We have lived long enough to see the fruits of "Mormonism" in the lives of Latter-day Saints, and by their fruits they shall be judged, and that is a just and righteous judgment.

Behold how the application of the law of tithing has helped to solve a problem for the Latter-day Saints. It has brought them into the enjoyment of facilities and opportunities not only in a religious but in a social way. It has enabled the authorities of the Church to provide ways and means for the social welfare of people by the building of recreation halls, by the building of temples and the building of tabernacles by the provisions such as are not found in any other church. And this is by reason of the fact that the great majority of the Latter-day Saints have observed the law of tithing.

CAPITAL AND LABOUR

That is, however, only an incident along the way, for all this is a training and preparation for other things that are to come. The eternal conflict that has been waged between capital and labour cannot be solved, nor shall it be solved, by all the legisla-

tion that men shall enact. When men become their brothers' keepers, when the love of God is in the hearts of men, and when they are willing to pay their honest tithing, they are taking a step towards the establishment of an order that obtained once in the days of Enoch, and shall obtain again when the Lord Jesus Christ comes to rule and reign. And there shall be no rich and no poor. The Lord's gospel plan is the true and only solution of that problem.

LAW OBSERVANCE IS THE STRENGTH OF NATIONS

I rejoice in every measure that is put forth to curtail the use of alcoholic beverages. I rejoice to know that at one time at least in the history of our own country we rose to the height that we were enabled to establish in the Constitution of the United States a law that prohibits the use of liquor or strong drink, which every intelligent man knows is positively an injury to the human body. Yet I grieve to see a spirit rampant in the hearts of men who ought to know better, to temporize with and alter this law. If we do recede from the high ground we took when this country made an attempt to free itself from the destructive influences of alcoholic beverages, we shall start on a downward program that is full of danger and destruction to the people of this country.

So far as the Latter-day Saints are concerned, we rejoice in every measure that seeks to preserve us from these destructive influences, and yet I recognize that all the legislation that can be enacted will not change the appetites of men or control their will. If it becomes necessary for us to use half the people of this country to police the other half, civilization will be in dire peril. The strength and power of the American Government was in the willingness on the part of the great masses of the people to observe the constitutional law and honour and respect it. We have been changing year by year from that time until the present, and never before in the history of our government has there been such a police force in use in the nation, in the states, and in the counties and in the cities, to attempt to maintain law and order. There must come an awakened respect for law and order or we shall reach the point where fifty-one per cent. of the people will be lawless, and then our interests will be in danger, our Constitution, our privileges and our rights will be in imminent jeopardy.

CIVILIZATION AND SELF-CONTROL

I heard an eminent economist of our country—I refer to Dr. Thomas Nixon Carver—deliver an address at the commencement exercises of the University of Utah a few years ago, wherein he discussed the subject of how much civilization the world can maintain. He undertook to prove, and I believe he was successful, that the present civilization can endure only because the majority of the people of this country can maintain the power of

self-control; that a nation or a people who have lost the power of self-control have lost all possibility of preserving unto themselves and their children a civilization. There was published last year by Professor Wiggam an interesting treatise upon that very subject. He draws attention to the fact that ours is not the only civilization that has reached a glorious eminence. He refers to Egypt in all its glory, to Greece, and to the civilizations that arose and flourished on this American Continent, which perhaps in some respects excelled our own civilization, and, said he:

> We need not feel that we are secure as the mountains, or that our present civilization shall stand and endure no matter what may come.

He points out the dangers that threaten our civilization and asks the question whether or not we have reached the summit and shall begin to recede, and whether there is in humanity itself the power to preserve forever a civilization. He said that it is only a short step, as nations in the past have shown, back to the jungle; that while there has always been an element, a few, who have contended for the maintenance of these high standards, they have been gradually absorbed and overcome, and the will of the majority has prevailed and darkness has come over the spirits of men again. As I read his gloomy forecast I was filled with this hope and absolute conviction—that the Lord God Almighty knew the dangers and determined to preserve a civilization that will withstand all the troubles of the future. But that civilization cannot be maintained by the wisdom of man. God alone can do it, and the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ is alone the path and the way and the means by which that civilization may be preserved.

A CONSTRUCTIVE RELIGION

This same author that I am referring to calls attention, in a treatise of that subject, to the strength and power of the "Mormon" Church. It is gratifying to me to know that while we ourselves know the plans and purposes of the Lord and have faith in those plans, that men who are looking from the outside are also noticing the fruits of "Mormonism" in the lives of the people. And so it ought to be. We should be attracting the attention of the world.

I remember that a few years ago Dr. Carver said from this very place where I now stand, that if he were going to search the world over to study the highest state of civilization being developed he would come to Utah and find it among the "Mormons." I discovered in Boston during my recent visit there with President Rolapp that Dr. Carver is just as freely speaking there of his findings among the "Mormons" as he did here. For he said, on his return from teaching summer school in the Utah Agricultural College, that the philosophy of life involved in the "Mormon"

Church is the most constructive thing he has seen in American life. He sees only a Church which embraces the whole faith and has a tremendous value for the adherents, so well is it organized, so much is it the centre of all community pleasure, so closely does it endeavour to establish heaven upon earth.

(*Continued on page 13*)

NOT UNDERSTOOD

NOT UNDERSTOOD, we move along asunder;
Our paths grow wider as the seasons creep
Along the years; we marvel and we wonder
Why life is life, and then we fall asleep,
Not understood

Not understood, we gather false impressions,
And hug closer them as the years go by,
Till virtues often seem to us transgressions;
And thus men rise and fall, and live and die,
Not understood.

Not understood, poor souls with stunted vision
Oft measure giants by their narrow gauge;
The poisoned shafts of falsehood and derision
Are oft impelled 'gainst those who mould the age,
Not understood.

Not understood, the secret springs of action,
Which lie beneath the surface and the show,
Are disregarded; with self-satisfaction
We judge our neighbors, and they often go
Not understood.

Not understood, how trifles often change us!
The thoughtless sentence or the fancied slight
Destroy long years of friendship, and estrange us,
And on our souls there falls a freezing blight,
Not understood.

Not understood, how many breasts are aching
For lack of sympathy! Ah! day by day,
How many cheerless, lonely hearts are breaking!
How many noble spirits pass away
Not understood!

Oh, Lord! if men would see a little clearer,
Or judge less harshly where they cannot see;
Oh, Lord! if men would draw a little nearer
To one another, they'd be nearer Thee,
And understood.

THOMAS BRACKEN

THE LATTER-DAY SAINTS' MILLENNIAL STAR

THURSDAY, JANUARY 5, 1928

EDITORIAL

BY WAY OF GREETING

THE DEPARTURE of President James E. Talmage leaves with me for a time, as already announced, the privilege and responsibility of directing the affairs of the British Mission of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints.

It is a high privilege to assist in advancing the work of the Lord in this, the first foreign Mission of the Church—a Mission which, as it were, is the mother of missionary activities now covering a large part of the earth. The British Mission has given to the Church a host of valiant defenders of the truth, whose lives of unyielding integrity and unselfish devotion to the Lord's latter-day work will be a constant inspiration to earnest effort. Nor can one be unmindful of the noble traditions of the British people. Under the flag of Great Britain human justice and freedom of conscience have always been held sacred. I am grateful to be allowed to serve here.

Yet, a great privilege is always accompanied by heavy responsibilities. The truths of eternity by which mankind may find happiness on earth and eternal joy hereafter have been entrusted to us. The authority of the Holy Priesthood has been committed to the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. We have been placed under obligation to teach all men the Gospel of Jesus Christ as restored through the instrumentality of the Prophet Joseph Smith. "For verily the voice of the Lord is unto all men, and there is none to escape; and there is no eye that shall not see, neither ear that shall not hear, neither heart that shall not be penetrated." Thus the purpose of the British Mission may be stated. In this land are many persons of honest and sincere desire who must be found, to whom the truth must be spoken convincingly. Members and missionaries alike must ever seek in wisdom and gentleness to teach to others the divine truth that we have found so sweet.

Effective work in the cause of truth can be done only by those who obey the commandments of the Lord. To receive truth one must practise it. Were it not so, multitudes would accept the glorious truths of the Gospel. Throughout human history the triumph of righteousness has been delayed because men have been unwilling to pay the price of truth in obedience to truth's demands. The strong man knows and obeys the truth. We are

but a handful of Latter-day Saints in these British Isles, but if we conform our lives to the requirements of the Gospel we shall be as a leaven to the nation.

Can we who have received the privilege of membership in the Church of Christ meet the responsibilities of teaching the truth to our fellow-men and of living up to the standards set up for us by the Gospel? We have done so in the past; the Lord will assist us to do so in the future. If we are intent upon our duties as Latter-day Saints, happiness will find and possess us no matter what the day's task may be.

I stand reverently, humbly and prayerfully before the labours assigned to me in the British Mission; yet I have faith in the guiding power of our Father in heaven, and in the ultimate accomplishment of His purposes. "The weak things of the world shall come forth and break down the mighty and the strong ones, that man should not counsel his fellow man, neither trust in the arm of flesh." If we all, members and missionaries, will stand together in faithful devotion to our duty, our efforts will become acceptable to God.

To the Saints in the British Mission, Sister Widtsoe and I extend our love and heartfelt greetings. We trust that we may win a portion of the good-will that has been so generously extended to those who have preceded us in office. May the Lord bless you abundantly!

JOHN A. WIDTSOE

"BON VOYAGE"

ON THE DAY of issue of this number of the *Star* President James E. Talmage and Sister May Booth Talmage will leave British shores for their home in the valleys of the mountains. Durham House will be lonely without them, and they will be missed by the missionaries and members of the Church throughout the European Mission; but their work has been well done, and as they came, so are they leaving, under appointment by those holding authority in the Priesthood. Important duties await them elsewhere. The love and good wishes of the European Mission go with them to cheer and comfort them on their journey and throughout the years to come.

The ancient proverb-maker said: "Seest thou a man diligent in his business? he shall stand before kings." Surely, this saying may be applied to President Talmage. Throughout his life he has been diligent in the cause of truth. His notable gifts of mind and speech and pen have been made to serve in the restoration of the Gospel in these latter days. He has stood before the mighty of the earth; he stands an honoured servant before God. There is no need to speak of his work in the British Isles and on

the European Continent—those who reside there know of the service he has rendered, and they bless him for the inspired help he has given them.

The value of human effort is multiplied when the wife possesses qualities of mind and heart and will to strengthen the labours of her husband by intelligent cooperation as Sister Talmage has done before and during her service in the mission field. Her long experience in the auxiliary organizations of the Church, coupled with her living faith, has served well the needs of the European Saints. She returns home with the happy knowledge that the Lord has blessed and magnified her in her labours, so that light has been brought into dark places and heavy hearts have been made to beat with peace.

To these vigorous and talented defenders of the Gospel of Jesus Christ the people of the European Mission bid Godspeed. May they receive in full measure the reward which they have earned.—J. A. W.

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

Upon this occasion, the opening of a new year and of the ninetieth volume of the *Millennial Star*, the editorial staff extend the compliments of the season to their many readers, wish them a most happy and prosperous new year, and promise them that, to the best of their ability, the *Star* will continue to shed forth the light of truth. May the year 1928 bring to many of God's children, now walking restlessly under the cloud of error, an understanding and acceptance of the Gospel of Jesus Christ.—J. A. W.

GREETING TO THE SISTERS

It is a great pleasure to greet the members and friends of the Church in the British Mission, and to feel one's self at home even though thousands of miles divide this land from the land where the "gathering" is taking place. After all, where is Zion? Zion is the "pure in heart", and that may be any place on earth where men choose to serve God in fulness and truth.

So here in your land, the land of my fathers, I greet you one and all with joy in the prospect of loving and mutual service. My heart is in this great latter-day work, and all that I have of strength or of loving service I pledge to the great cause which unites us all.

It is with regret, I know, that your immediate association with Sister Talmage is severed, for her contribution has been conscientious and of great worth. But the work will "carry on", and to the best of my power I shall follow in her footsteps.

A new series of lessons will be outlined for the Relief Society

this year, and will begin in an early issue of the *Star*. For those who are entirely up to date with the past lessons, any special program may be prepared for a week or two until the new course is published. Those who may have hurried over last year's lessons may with profit review any interesting or important topic.

To the sisters of the British Mission—one and all—Greetings and best wishes for a year of accomplishment!

LEAH D. WIDTSOE

"MORMON" HOSPITALITY

HOSPITALITY has long been recognized as a distinguishing characteristic of the Latter-day Saints. The poor, the sick, the casual stranger and the weary traveler, indeed any who have been in need of food, shelter or service have always found such as was available willingly given in the communities and homes of those who hold membership in this latter-day Church of Jesus Christ. Hospitality, charity, unselfish service—these have ever been outstanding attributes of righteous men and women. They were practised by the Saints anciently; they were taught by the Saviour during His ministry in the flesh; they are embodied within the Gospel of Jesus Christ, and they have held important place in the lives of the members of His Church since its re-establishment in this day.

The early dwellings of the Saints in Eastern United States were homes of hospitality. As the westward movement progressed this condition did not change, but became true in even greater degree. As early as January, 1841, the word of the Lord given through the Prophet Joseph Smith directed the building of a house in Nauvoo, Illinois, for the comfort and entertainment of strangers. After designating the builders and giving other instructions, the Lord spake thus:

> And it shall be for a house for boarding, a house that strangers may come from afar to lodge therein; therefore let it be a good house, worthy of all acceptation, that the weary traveler may find health and safety while he shall contemplate the word of the Lord.

When, deprived of homes and other worldly possessions, the "Mormon" Pioneers traveled into unbroken country, bound for the far West, hospitality was never in the background. On the plains these stalwart people were the willing sharers of scanty provisions. Their desert settlements became veritable oases in that day of perilous travel.

Intervening years have wrought changes incredible; "Mormon" communities now enjoy the conveniences of advanced civilization. Tens of thousands of tourists visit Utah and its capital, Salt Lake City, every year. Hospitality is outstanding now as formerly;

information is freely supplied; the world-famed Tabernacle organ is heard daily in recital without cost to the visitor; many conveniences are available, and "Mormon" hospitality is widely commented upon by tourists of all civilized countries. Many expressions of praise and gratitude reach us by word of mouth, by letter, and in print. We are in receipt of a recent communication addressed to the Editor of the *Millennial Star* and written by Mr. David Wright, a resident of Glasgow, Scotland, who is not a member of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. This writing is typical of many; it appears below in part, and we regret that lack of space will not permit its reproduction in full:

Editor, *Millennial Star*:

My wife and I recently returned from a tour of the United States of America. We traveled from New York to Los Angeles by easy stages, and spent seven weeks in Salt Lake City and the State of Utah.

. . . .

I had a letter of introduction to a business man whom we found to be, in his private capacity, a Bishop of the Mormon Church. This gentleman could not do enough for us and we have happy recollections of his many kindnesses.

First of all he took us to the Tabernacle, the Assembly Hall, and through the beautiful grounds of the Temple. The Tabernacle is open to the public each day of the week, and hundreds of tourists from all parts of America were there that day enjoying the service of music from the great organ—one of the finest in the world.

Next day our friend took us over to the L. D. S. Administration Building, and there we had the honour of being introduced to President Heber J. Grant who received us very graciously and on leaving gave us an autographed copy of the *Articles of Faith* which we shall cherish as a valuable souvenir of the City of Zion.

I must tell you of a somewhat remarkable incident in connection with our visit to the Administration Building. On our way there our friend the Bishop remarked to me that he would not be surprised if we found genealogical records of my family in the archives of the Church. I was sceptical and said so, but on mentioning the matter to the courteous lady who has charge of that section of the library, she inquired what part of Scotland my people came from and in a few minutes produced the records of a small village in Perthshire, and there, to my astonishment, I saw my forefathers' names recorded back to the seventeenth century.

. . . .

We learned much of the history of the Church from the Bishop—the early and deadly persecutions of the Pioneers, their indomitable courage in face of all difficulties and dangers, their sincere belief in the divine mercy of a loving Father, their kindness to the poor and needy of all creeds, and particularly their humane and helpful treatment of the native Indians.

We met and spoke with many of the old Pioneers of the middle sixties of the last century—fine old people who clasped our hands with both of theirs and wished us Godspeed.

Yes, we love Utah, for we found there a race of God-fearing, high-principled and kindly people, and we are looking forward to the visit to Bonnie Scotland next year of that fine American gentleman—who is a Bishop of the Mormon Church—and his charming wife, so that we may in small measure, perhaps, make some return for the many kindnesses showered upon us by all whom we met in Utah.

Such is the expression of appreciation from one who has seen for himself.

RICHARD L. EVANS

Courses of Study for Auxiliary Organizations: *Relief Society*—If the lessons on the "Divinity of Jesus of Nazareth" have been completed, review, hold a testimony meeting, and prepare special topics prior to the appearance of new lessons in the *Star*. See "Greeting to the Sisters" in this issue.

Sunday School—Complete and review the courses given for 1927. Announcement of texts and work for 1928 will be made in the *Star*.

Mutual Improvement Associations—Continue with the lessons on "The Story of the Restoration."

IMPENDING DANGERS AND THE WAY OF ESCAPE

(*Concluded from page 7*)

Dr. Wiggam, in his observations, has the following to say in *Next Age of Man*:

There can be little question that in all ages religious appeal has had great influence upon the birthrate.

He calls attention to the fact that nation after nation is receding in its birthrate; that decay is setting in, and the end may be that nations will destroy themselves by their own suicide; and in the solution of this question he sees a ray of hope in what he calls the "Mormon" plan:

As an illustration the "Mormon" people of Utah, under the influence of their religious belief, have kept up a higher birthrate among their intellectual and professional classes than the people of any other State of the Union. Their theology teaches that every child that is born means that this act of human beings gives another soul its opportunity to pass from a lower state of existence through the trial state of this bodily life to a higher state of spiritual evolution. Dr. Johnson, a professor in the University of Pittsburgh [I met this gentleman in the east; he was in one of our meetings in Pittsburgh] believes that the "Mormon" religion is the most eugenical religion in the world.

ETERNITY OF THE FAMILY

In this time of trouble, which is threatening not only the peace of the nation but its life, in the destruction of the home, the

"Mormon" example is attracting attention, wherein we plan to be united in companionship not only until death does us part, but for eternity, which is quite in contrast to the spirit of the age that seeks for companionship marriage that may be dissolved at will, without the edict of the court. Upon an enduring foundation we look forward to the perpetuation and the establishment of these unions throughout time and all eternity. God never could have provided for the strength and endurance of this Church on a more solid basis than He did when He established in it the union of families for time that shall endure throughout all the ages, and when He gave us the conception that the children who come to us are His sons and daughters, entitled as much as we are to the rights and privileges of earth-life, and that it is one step onward towards their glorious destiny.

There has been inculcated into our hearts, therefore, by the example of our fathers and mothers, through the observance of the first great commandment of God to multiply and replenish the earth, the true conception of one of the chief purposes of life that cannot and must not be lost sight of by the Latter-day Saints; and through adhering to it we shall survive and shall not perish.

LIFE-GIVING PRINCIPLES

So each simple gospel principle has in it the very kernel of life. We need no new revelation. All we need to do is to get a new conception, perhaps, of those simple gospel principles contained in these doctrines taught during this conference—the observance of the Fast Day, thereby taking care of the poor of the Latter-day Saints, and also providing for a spiritual growth and development on the part of the membership. The adherence to these gospel principles will bring honesty; for, the man who pays an honest tithing is inculcating deep in his heart the elements of honesty such as no other practice or teaching can do. The old "Mormon" slogan that "a 'Mormon's' word is as good as his bond" should be the watchword of all Latter-day Saints, if we are to distinguish ourselves and establish integrity the like of which is not known elsewhere.

I think, as I said a moment ago, the Lord has overlooked nothing in enabling us to realize these great promises. He has selected the right people. They are of the House of Israel, sons and daughters of Joseph.

THE CHILDREN OF JOSEPH

I read a few years ago an article by an eminent author in one of our national magazines in which he discussed the question "Are the Jews the chosen people of God?" He granted to them a claim to all the blessings that were pronounced upon their father Judah. "But when," said he, "they assume to be the

inheritors of those blessings that were pronounced upon his brother Joseph, they are usurping that which they have no right to." And he concluded his article with the statement that if somewhere in the world we could find the descendants of Joseph, the descendants of Ephraim, we would indeed find the chosen people of God.

EXEMPLARS—NOT FOLLOWERS

How we ought to rejoice in knowing that they are found and that we are the children of Joseph! These are the chosen people of God, and yet not in boastfulness, but as the natural inheritors of blessings and privileges. We should arise to the Lord's expectations, and through His providing we ought to become distinguished and unlike the world, a peculiar people. The Lord brought us to the right place, in the right part of the United States, where, with all its natural privileges and advantages, there can be developed an unusual race of men. Every environment, every setting, every struggle through which this people have passed, and the very nature of their employment, means that there is in these things the building of men and women who shall arise and shine. I am glad to know that we have the only plan, God's plan, that would make any people, I care not who they are, distinguished people—with inspired leaders, with a man to whom the revelations of God are given to tell the people what to do next in the unfolding of this program. With such possibilities, nothing overlooked on the part of the Lord, why should we not arise and shine that our light indeed may be a standard to the nations, that we may become the salt of the earth? The power is in this Church to make a mighty people.

May God bless us that we shall treasure our heritage, that we shall recognize that we are to do an unusual thing. We are not called to be imitators; we are called to be exemplars to the world, a light that shall shine until the day will come when from the east to the west, the north to the south, men will come, not to look upon our lands nor our fields nor our factories, but to learn of our ways that they may walk in our paths, and thereby find peace, preservation and salvation now and eternally.

May God help us to keep our eye upon our glorious destiny and recognize that within our hands are the means of accomplishing such an end, and not to be blind to our privileges. The Lord help us thus to see His wonderful providing, help us to go forward towards that which is ours through our faithfulness, and may God grant it, I ask in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen.

When you can add brightness to the sun, beauty to the rainbow, and strength to the everlasting hills, then you may try to improve the work of Christ.—Anon.

FROM THE MISSION FIELD

Arrivals: Dr. John A. Widtsoe, of the Council of the Twelve, accompanied by his wife, Sister Leah Dunford Widtsoe, and daughter, Eudora, arrived in Plymouth aboard the steamship *President Roosevelt* on December 23rd, and reached Liverpool by rail on the following day. President Widtsoe comes to take charge of the European Mission; Sister Widtsoe will direct the work of the Relief Societies in these lands.

Doings in the Districts: *Liverpool*—On the evening of Boxing Day, December 27th, the Liverpool Branch gave a Christmas party and program for the children, to which the members of the Birkenhead Branch were invited. Father Christmas gave presents to each of the young folks.

London—A goodly number of members and friends were present at an entertainment held under the auspices of the North London Branch Sunday School on December 22nd at Gothic House, London. On December 24th the Traveling Elders of the District convened for the regular monthly report meeting. Gratifying accounts of past endeavour were given.

Sheffield—A meeting for the missionaries of the Sheffield District was held at Doncaster on December 17th. Fervent testimonies were borne; a condition of harmony was reported by each. A Christmas entertainment was held by the Relief Society of the Doncaster Branch on the evening of December 17th. Gifts were distributed to the children.

DEATH

WAITE—Brother George Waite, a Priest in the Bradford Branch, Leeds District, passed away on December 22nd at the age of fifty-nine. Funeral services were held at the family residence on December 24th under the direction of President Elmer O. Zollinger. Elder H. Gardell Jacobson and President Zollinger were the speakers; the last named dedicated the grave.

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LIVERPOOL

FOR SALE IN ALL THE DISTRICTS OF THE CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST OF LATTER-DAY SAINTS IN GREAT BRITAIN